

ELMER JACOBS QUALIFIES AS A WAITER—HE WAITED FIVE YEARS TO PITCH OPENING GAME

FIVE-YEAR AMBITION REALIZED AS JACOBS HURLS OPENING TILT

Dream of Rookie a Half Decade Ago Becomes Reality as Elmer Flings Inaugural Game of 1919 Campaign Against Giants Today

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL, Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger. Copyright, 1919, by Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger. Elmer Jacobs was a very proud person today when Jack Coombs called him to one side and said, "Take, you will pitch against the Giants in the opening game. Give us the best you have, because we want to get off to a good start."



NEW SPRING ATTACK—THE SMASH OF TRIS, CRASH OF TY—IS ON

The Drive That Leaps From the Batting Eye Will Start Today and the Only Roar Will Come From the Bleachers

IN THE SPOTLIGHT—BY GRANTLAND RICE. Copyright, 1919. All rights reserved. The New Spring Drive. Back once more with the hit-and-run. Back with peace and the friendly sun. Where the red mist fades for a new-born world. Where the rifle's stacked and the flag is furled. As the call comes out through the open glen. The new spring drive springs on again.

INTEREST IN GAME GREATER: HEYDLER

By JOHN A. HEYDLER, President National League. I feel sure that baseball will have one of the greatest revivals in the history of the sport during the coming season, and I expect to see 1919 prove to be one of our banner years. I make this prediction more as a lover of baseball than as a baseball official.

Square Deal for Fan This Year, Says Mack

With War Over and Outlaw Leagues Through, Players Will Concentrate. 's Boss Predicts—Baseball Stage Set for Youngsters. By EDWIN J. POLLOCK. I believe there is going to be a great deal of interest in the game this year.

BASEBALL DUE FOR REVIVAL, SAYS BAN

American League Chief Does Not Believe Fed Decision Will Do Harm. SHOULD HAVE FINE SEASON. By BAN JOHNSON, President American League. I believe baseball will have a splendid season. With the war over, the game will regain its old hold on the public.

"GEE," sighed Jacobs, "I only wish I was good enough to start the season. I'd give anything to get out there on the opening day and I would work week-end too. But there's no chance. I suppose Mr. Maxwell."

Phils Always Unlucky Against Giants

THE Phils always have been unlucky against the Giants, whether it was early or late in the season. Big Alex never could beat them, and when he flattered the other pitchers followed suit. This year it would not be at all surprising to see McGraw's men administer another walloping for the slug-

COMIE will be on the road the remainder of this month, playing in Washington and New York. After a week here in May the A's will start on their western tour and will not be seen again until May 29. The Phils will entertain the fans while they are traveling.

Bezdek Has Mysterious Ball Club

OUT West the big game will be between the Cubs and Pittsburgh at Chicago. Bezdek is said to have a very mysterious ball club, and some rash experts have considered it seriously in the pennant race. Today the Pirates meet what is believed to be the strongest club in the National League and will have a chance to show how good they are.

AFTER the first flurry and the players recover from stage fright, or whatever it is that hits them on opening days, the real objective of the game, the pennant race, will begin its long march. Man the best teams win.

BASE-RUNNING ENCOURAGED

By JOHN A. HEYDLER, President National League. I believe the public can look forward to one of the most interesting seasons it has ever known. Most of our stars who were in the service are back or will be back before long, and baseball in 1919 will be keener and harder fought than in years.

Unrest Subsidied

"In the last five seasons there have been side attractions for the players. The Red Sox, with that strong pitching staff, of course, are the favorites, but I like Cleveland and I like Chicago and New York. They all have strong clubs, but baseball is uncertain. One club is strong in one department and weak in another. You can never pick the winner from this side of August."

COMISKEY LAYS SEX

"We'll Be in Pennant Race From Start," Says Chicago Owner. By CHARLES A. COMISKEY, Owner White Sox. St. Louis, April 23.—It looks like a great season for baseball, and a great year for the White Sox. All clubs have drawn well in the spring games, and the game opened big in this city.

HERRMANN OPTIMISTIC

Commission Chairman Pleaseth Prospects for 1919. By ALBERT HERRMANN, Chairman National Baseball Commission. Cincinnati, O., April 23.—I am decidedly optimistic over the 1919 outlook for baseball in each major league circuit. The local situation is highly gratifying. Practically all the best and grand stand seats have been sold for the Cincinnati park on opening day, and a large majority of the tickets have been paid for and delivered.

Young Man's Year

"Then there's another angle. This is the age of development among players. With all the uncertainty in baseball, there were few players developed. The stage is set this season for the younger men. They have their chance now to get into the big leagues and stay there."

M'GRAW HOPEFUL

Jawn Believes Indications Point to Return of Prosperity. By JOHN J. M'GRAW, Manager New York Giants. Indications point to a return of baseball prosperity, and I look forward to a gratifying season. Whether it will be one of baseball's best years I am not prepared to say. The sport has suffered in some places by reason of abnormal conditions, and the question as to whether the national game will resume its former solidity at the affected points can only be answered by the developments of the future.

Dodgers' Owner Looks for Great Prospe'ity Next Year

By CHARLES H. EBBETS, Owner Brooklyn Dodgers. Boston, April 23.—Baseball is getting back to normal. The friction that was aroused by and through the war with the Federal League fast is disappearing. The players now are able to put their minds and efforts on the artistic side of the game. The superior baseball that will be played in the big leagues this season will regain all of the old followers and make many new ones.

EBBETS FAVORS 1920

Baseball—Today—Baseball Opening CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON NATIONAL LEAGUE PARK. Phillies vs. New York "Giants". GAME SPARES 3:30 P. M. Band Concert by American Legion Corps Band 7:30 P. M. Seats on Sale at Gimble's and Scaudinos'.

RACES TODAY AT HAVRE DE GRACE

By RAY E. DAILY, including a Steeplechase Special Pennsylvania Railroad Train Leave 12:30 P. M. West Philadelphia, 12:35 P. M. Direct to Course. ADMISSION—GENTLEMEN \$1.00 and PADDOCK \$1.50; LADIES \$1.00 including War Tax. FIRST RACE AT 3:50 P. M.

FOR those who esteem the bizarre, here is a noted difference between the two leagues to consider: The American League in the last twelve years has known but two league leaders at bat, Cobb and Speaker, with Cobb predominating eleven times. The National League in the last nine years has known nine different leaders, the list, in order from 1910, embracing Magee, Wagner, Zimmerman, Yinging, Dumbert, Doyle, Chase, Roush and Wheat.

THIS is one of those nimble set-up situations that may mean nothing and get you an foul ball without.

IN SPITE of numerous epistles attacking our belief in the matter, we still hold that defensive play is a more important matter in baseball than offensive strength. Weak-hitting ball clubs have won both pennants and world series through exceptional defensive strength. But a machine with a moth-eaten defense is helpless.

YOU will still recall the year of the ten years Detroit averaged once her runs a game through one of the most powerful attacks in record, only to finish with her usual in the soap-trough.

LAST season, for the eleventh time in twelve years, Cobb led his league again. When will the law of gravity begin to operate in his case? Last season he finished thirty-points beyond Burns, of the Athletics, his nearest rival among the regulars. The Georgian is no longer a mere youth. He now confesses to thirty-three years. But Hans Wagner was thirty-seven years old when he led the league for the last time, in 1911. And Cobb's general average is thirty or forty points beyond Wagner's. Cobb, at this young date, has no been a at his heels. Last season Speaker dropped to 319, with Eddie Collins below 300.

AFTER Speaker stopped Cobb in his drive for ten straight seasons of leadership the latter apparently seemed to lose his old ambition. Yet in 1917 he batted .381 and last year he returned .382; amazingly consistent work. George Sisler was picked as Cobb's successor, but while the Brownie star has indulged himself in these five seasons and has mounted as high as .333, he still seems to be more than a notch below the eleven-year leader.

WITH an eye on the prize, Cobb is still an even money bet as better against the remainder of the field.

Advertisement for GRAMM BERNSTEIN motor trucks. See the New 1 1/2-Ton GRAMM-BERNSTEIN \$1895 With Electric Lights Also Model No. 20, 2 Ton. We invite the most critical comparison of engineering units used, workmanship and test. We are confident that the equal of this latest addition to the Gramm-Bernstein line is not to be found elsewhere. Sizes 2 1/2, 3 1/2 and 5 tons. Electric lights and starter on all models if desired. GRAMM-BERNSTEIN MOTOR TRUCK CO. of Phila. Locust 1986 217-19-21 N. 22d Street

HERE THEY ARE! PHILADELPHIA'S HOPES IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE PENNANT RACE

